[9th July 1952

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" As I have stated, the present policy of the Government is only to help the weavers by giving them subsistence wages wherever they are suffering. If the relief committees are going to be of any value at all, we shall certainly consider the suggestion from this point of view."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" In view of the statement of the Hon. the Minister for Industries that it is only in respect of the existing co-operative societies the Government will supply the full capital, may I ask whether the Government are aware that nearly 60 per cent of the handloom weavers are not today in the co-operative societies and, therefore, the contemplated help is not going to reach even half of them? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, out of 8 lakhs of handloom weavers, nearly 3 lakhs are in the co-operative fold, and when this scheme is extended, we will get another 3 or 4 lakhs more so that there will be nearly 6 lakhs or 7 lakhs of people in the co-operative fold. We shall examine the question, however, again if it is brought to our notice that this does not give adequate relief to the weavers."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" May I know when the Government are going to put this scheme into operation? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Already, Sir, in 15 districts—Salem, Coimbatore, Malabar, Chingleput, Madurai, South Arcot, North Arcot, Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam and the Ceded Districts—the scheme has come into operation."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" May I know whether the Government have, with reference to the suggestion of the Hon. the Finance Minister in his Budget speech, issued orders to all the departments to use handloom cloth and whether it will not be desirable to find out if there is any market for handloom products in foreign countries so that the large stocks accumulated by co-operative societies may be released? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" With regard to the Government orders, I may tell the hon. Member that we have circularised all the departments and asked them to let us know their requirements so that we can supply handloom cloth as early as possible. With regard to the second part of the question, we are also in correspondence with our trade delegates in other countries to see what the possibility is of increasing the export of our products, by participating in exhibitions in those countries and by exhibiting the products in the embassies themselves."

SRI A. RAMASWAMY THEVAR :—" Will the Government issue similar circulars to local bodies also to use handloom cloth? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I accept the valuable suggestion of the hon. Member and shall do the needful."